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Photos by Evan Cantwell, Lauren Tilton and Molly Tomlinson

Lincoln Mullen (from left), Lauren Tilton and Andromeda Yelton are conducting research via the new Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud project.

Cloud-Based Technology Project Opens New Doors

LC Labs initiative envisions expanded access to Library collections.

BY SAHAR KAZMI

Albert Einstein once quipped that the only thing you have to know is the location of the library. As the Library of Congress aims to become more accessible to people everywhere through technology, the LC Labs team is helping to open new doors to our ever-growing collections through an innovative computational research initiative.

Earlier this summer, Labs introduced three inaugural [Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud \(CCHC\)](#) projects to experiment with how cloud-based technologies can provide insights about collection data and the tools and techniques people need to learn from cultural heritage materials in entirely new ways.

Today, many of the Library's researchers are interested not just

in the information within a collection, but also the information about it – its structure, provenance and other metadata. Serving up slices of data is a challenge, however, for large and complex datasets. Outside of limited initiatives, the Library does not have all the tools or staff to support these types of requests, including building and transforming customized datasets for researchers exploring the collections. That's where CCHC comes in.

"Our CCHC researchers are analyzing data in contexts and configurations that differ from the way the information is assembled and organized at the Library," Alice Goldfarb, an LC Labs innovation specialist, said. "Our goal is to use their experiments as a foundation to help us understand how cloud-computing methods can be

CCHC, CONTINUED ON 8

DIGITAL STRATEGY DIRECTORATE OFFERS DETAIL

The Digital Strategy Directorate is offering a detail for a qualified GS-07, GS-08 or GS-09 Library staff member to serve a full-time, 120-day detail as a program/innovation specialist to support program planning, outreach and digital scholarship initiatives with the LC Labs team.

The selectee will work under the supervision of Nicki Saylor, chief of the Digital Innovation Lab, to help track ongoing efforts in the Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud initiative.

For questions about the application requirements, contact Tabatha Irving at tirv@loc.gov. The deadline for submission is Sept. 10.

OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/ or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

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The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

REPORT UNUSUAL COMPUTER ACTIVITY

Security Emergency: If you suspect that your Library of Congress system has been compromised or have an IT Security emergency, contact infosec@loc.gov immediately.

Possible phishing attempt: Did you receive an email that you think is suspicious? Forward the email as an attachment to infosec@loc.gov.

For more information, visit the [IT Security website](#)

NOT GETTING ALL-STAFF EMAILS?

Any employees who are not receiving all-staff emails should notify the OCIO Hotline at 7-7727 or ocioservicedesk@loc.gov. Include your name, email address and service unit, and you will be added to the appropriate service or support-unit group email account.

GAZETTE

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The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE
An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF
Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES
The deadline for editorial copy for the Sept. 17 Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 8.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at
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Suzanne Schadl Appointed Chief of LAC&E

She will lead the newly created Latin American, Caribbean and European Division.

The Library of Congress has appointed Suzanne Schadl as the chief of the new Latin American, Caribbean and European Division (LAC&E).

The division was created this year as part of a general Library of Congress reorganization. LAC&E consists of three sections and two reading rooms – the [Hispanic Reading Room](#) and the [European Reading Room](#) – that cover 83 countries and 16 territories from Central and Eastern Europe to Northern and Western Europe and Iberia, and from the Caribbean across South America and the diaspora communities of the Americas.

The division plays a vital role in the Library's acquisitions program; offers expert reference and bibliographic services to Congress and researchers in this country and abroad; develops projects, special events and publications; and cooperates and participates with other institutions and scholarly and professional associations in the U.S. and abroad.

Schadl brings to the position more than 25 years of experience as a scholar, educator and librarian in library leadership and international studies.

Since 2018, she has served as chief of the Library's Hispanic Division, where she led efforts to successfully rebrand the [Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape as the PALABRA Archive](#), underscoring the collection's emphasis on the spoken word and a broader Latino audience.

She also led a team that coordinates the volunteer service of 130 researchers contributing metadata and trends essays to the [Handbook of Latin American Studies](#). A



Shawn Miller

Suzanne Schadl

strong proponent of hands-on-learning, she has led the charge in guiding interns from project proposals to demonstrable published works on webpages at loc.gov.

"Suzanne takes on this role at an exciting time at the Library as we engage with more audiences and users across the country and around the world," said Eugene Flanagan, director of General and International Collections. "Suzanne's experience and leadership will be central to how we improve the development and discovery of our Latin American, Caribbean, European and heritage collections, including traditionally represented and underrepresented narratives, perspectives and people in all their richness and

diversity."

Before joining the Library, Schadl served as a faculty member and curator for Latin American collections at the University of New Mexico from 2008 to 2018. She served as director of the Gerald & Betty Ford Library at the Bosque School, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 2004 to 2008.

Schadl is an accomplished author, researcher and curator with three decades of academic experience in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and 17 years of progressive library leadership and supervisory responsibilities. She is active in the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, having served as vice president, president and past president (2016–2019).

She also served as board member at the National Hispanic Cultural Center and the New Mexico Humanities Council and on advisory boards for Latin American initiatives under the umbrella of the Center for Research Libraries.

Schadl holds a Bachelor of Arts from Ohio State University in Spanish and International Studies and a doctorate from the University of New Mexico in Latin American Studies.

"Information crosses boundaries and languages and research benefits from the same," Schadl said. "The Latin American, Caribbean and European division is well poised to help increase communication and understanding across many boundaries and languages, and I am excited to lead the critical work of the new division." ■

HCD SERVICES PORTAL

During this period of remote work, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

Library employees are required to attest to their COVID-19 vaccination status by Sept. 10. A vaccine certification form is available on the HCD portal at the above link.

AAPB Releases Two New Online Exhibitions

One focuses on the Peabody Awards, the other on Native Americans.

The American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB) has released two new online exhibitions.

[“Exploring Public Broadcasting in the Peabody Awards Collection”](#) showcases thousands of hours of public broadcasting nominated for prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards that the AAPB has digitally preserved. [“Native Narratives”](#) explores the representation of Native Americans in public broadcasting through programs archived in the Peabody and other AAPB collections from both Native and non-Native producers.

“The Peabody Awards exhibit provides access to a broad range of programming considered at the time of broadcast to be exceptional,” Alan Gevinson, the AAPB’s project director and special assistant to the chief of the Library’s National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, said.

“Native Narratives,” he added, focuses on “ways that both mainstream and Native-created public radio and television programs have documented contemporary Native American cultures from a multitude of perspectives over the past half century.”

The AAPB is a collaboration between the Library and GBH, the Boston public broadcaster, to digitally preserve and make accessible historically and culturally important public radio and television programs. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) provided funds to digitally preserve content from the Peabody Awards collection.

Established in 1940, the Peabody Awards celebrate excellence in storytelling on television, radio and, today, online media. The just-released AAPB exhibition pro-



American Archive of Public Broadcasting

Harlan McKosato hosts “Native America Calling,” a news program from Alaska.

vides access to more than 4,000 hours of radio and television content broadcast from 1941 to 1999 – documentaries; news and public affairs programs; and science, health, children’s and cultural programming.

More than 230 local, state and regional public radio and television stations and producers across the country and in Puerto Rico created the content highlighted in the exhibit, most of which aired initially only in its local viewing area. Broadcasters nominated all of the programs for a Peabody Award, selecting the programs as their best work of the previous year, and 173 of them won the award.

The exhibit links to more than 1,200 programs accessible online and includes a history of the awards and a list of all Peabody Award winners in the digitized collection, some available online and others only on-site on the premises of the Library, GBH or the University of Georgia, which partnered with AAPB in applying for the NHPRC digitization grant. The Peabody Awards originated at the university, where a large awards collection resides.

The new “Native Narratives” exhibit highlights how public radio and

television has represented Native American communities in the U.S., both in ways that reinforce stereotypes and in ways that reject them, with an emphasis on the rise of Native-created public media and programs produced by Native people for their own communities.

It does so by organizing a selection of public radio and television programs from the AAPB collections into five sections. Topics include the origins of Native stereotypes and continued use of them through, for example, racist sports mascots and simplistic Hollywood narratives; U.S. policies of termination, tribal restoration and urban relocation; coverage of the American Indian Movement; Native-owned and operated news outlets; and programs made by and for Native Americans.

The programs featured come from stations and producers across the U.S., including Native-owned and operated stations and media centers and outlets in states with large populations of Native Americans.

Sally Smith, who served as a 2019 junior fellow in the Recorded Sound Section of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, curated the exhibit. ■

Kluge Center Launches Democracy Series

The 10-part series is examining bedrock institutions of American life.

BY ANDREW BREINER

This summer has been a busy one for the John W. Kluge Center. Our Pillars of Democracy series, launched in July, is exploring the fragile state of public institutions in the U.S. today through discussions with thinkers from across the political spectrum. And this month, we are welcoming a new cohort of scholars, our largest since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Kluge Center is co-hosting [Pillars of Democracy](#) with the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute. The series will continue through May 2022 with a total of 10 public events.

Increasingly, Americans have a great deal of skepticism about key institutions such as the media, the courts, the presidency and Congress. The Kluge Center aims to foster discussions through Pillars of Democracy about how public trust in foundations of civic life has faltered and what might be done to rebuild trust.

“For decades America’s civic and governmental institutions have lost the trust of the people, and sometimes even come under direct attack,” John Haskell, the Kluge Center’s director, said. “Without trust, these institutions struggle to serve their intended function effectively – whether it be to mold character, adjudicate disputes, educate and inform or legislate.”

The first event, a conversation about Congress with Frances Lee, Sarah Binder and Phillip Wallach, was streamed live on July 8, and a [recording is available](#) to view now.

“I think Congress increasingly struggles to address the big issues of the day,” Sarah Binder of George Washington University said.



JOHN HASKELL



PHILIP WALLACH



FRANCES LEE



SARAH BINDER

Kluge Center director John Haskell talks with panelists during the debut Pillar of Democracy event.

While there are sometimes legislative successes, she said, most major problems remain undressed, and many signs point to partisan polarization as a key culprit, much of it stemming from the preferences of voters. “There are no naturally bipartisan issues,” Binder said, noting that polarized voters do not reward lawmakers who compromise to pass bipartisan legislation.

Frances Lee of Princeton University had a slightly different view – she said Congress is “performing better than we give it credit for.”

Although she agreed that two recent impeachments and the events of Jan. 6 point to deep polarization and mistrust, she argued that the legislative response to the COVID-19 pandemic shows that action on large, bipartisan bills is still possible.

Philip Wallach of the American Enterprise Institute said passing laws and funding initiatives is not the most important question. Instead, it’s whether Congress can provide a forum in which Americans feel their concerns are

properly aired and considered in working toward compromises.

A second Pillars of Democracy event on Aug. 19 explored similar questions about declining trust in the presidency. A third discussion on Sept. 16 will look at the federal judiciary. All events in the series will be livestreamed, after which recordings will be made available.

When pandemic conditions permit, the Kluge Center also plans to host Pillars events in person in the Jefferson Building. Watch the [Kluge Center’s Insights blog](#) for further details.

The center is also planning to host a new cohort of 14 new fellows and chairs, who will begin residencies this month. Scholars will be able to make use of the Library’s digital and physical collections in pursuing their projects.

As always, their subjects of study range widely. Topics include feminism in the Middle East and North Africa, U.S.–Russia relations, NASA’s Skylab and the decline of statesmanship in the U.S. Congress.

A full listing of Kluge scholars is available on its [website](#). ■



Courtesy of Camille Acosta

Camille Acosta

Camille Acosta is interning this summer with the American Folklife Center (AFC). She recently earned a master's degree in folk studies from Western Kentucky University.

What does your work in AFC involve?

I am working on two projects. The first is script and audio editing for the America Works podcast. My duties are to create captivating interviews for season three of the podcast by editing oral narratives and interviews from the Library's Occupational Folklife collection. I am hoping to streamline at least seven wonderful episodes for the season.

My second project is to help create a StoryMap for the AFC's Juan B. Rael Collection. It focuses on the beautiful cultures, traditions and alabados (hymns) of the Hispano residents of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado in the mid-1900s, collected by Rael, a folklorist. By presenting collection items

and audio, we hope to increase the accessibility of the phenomenal collection.

What draws you to folk studies?

I grew up in El Paso, Texas, and I first discovered my love for folklore and storytelling through my parents. My dad was born in Parral in the Mexican state of Chihuahua and has been forever fascinated with the art of a narrative. My mom, a proud Chicana like me, doesn't believe she is truly living unless she is on a dance floor.

They share a love of the arts and teaching low-income students about self-expression through dance and creative writing. My parents inspire me every day to continue telling my story.

Although I have had the pleasure to pursue folk studies formally only for the past two years, I have been involved with Chicano storytelling since I was young. I have also pursued acting and performance since I was 4 years old.

I pursued a bachelor's degree in theater at El Paso Community College and Western Kentucky University, where I also earned my master's in folk studies. As a speech and debate coach there, I coached students in storytelling events in which they use their voices to spread messages of activism and growth.

Since 2019, I have delved into the world of Chicano/Mexican American folk art research, legend-telling communication and foodways exploration, and I have worked to include more Hispanic diversity in the world of folk studies in general.

What did you encounter of special interest in AFC?

Of course, through the projects I have been lucky enough to participate in, I am learning more about communities and cultures. I have the chance to listen to what makes people happiest, what makes their hearts beat, whether they are professional home health-care workers or individuals in Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico, singing songs that helped their culture survive.

Also, I have been fortunate to listen to the stories of AFC staff and learn how their paths led them to the Library. This is such a fantastic feature of the internship, because not only am I learning about narratives through collections, but I'm also listening to stories of people who are quickly becoming friends.

What has working with AFC staff been like?

Working with the AFC staff has been nothing short of incredible. Every single staff member has been more than willing to sit with me and teach me the inner workings of the center as well as give advice on the folklore field. It is really neat not to feel like you're going to work every day, but merely collaborating with artists and friends who feel just as passionate about the human experience as you do. I'm having the time of my life!

Were there challenges to participating in the fellowship remotely?

In all honesty, the only downside to participating in the fellowship remotely is not being able to be in the lively atmosphere that is the AFC. The center's staff and its amazing IT team have made the technical side of the remote internship easy to maneuver through Zoom sessions, and all of my project advisers make sure to communicate to help me feel welcome and involved. I just wish I was actually there to physically soak it all in. Hopefully soon.

What's next for you?

That is a fantastic question that I do not have the answer to. Coming out of such a difficult year and a half with COVID-19, as well as finishing my master's degree, I am left with feelings of the unknown for the future. However, I don't think this is a bad thing. Sometimes, the best ideas are birthed from uncertainty. Wherever my path leads me, I hope to be involved in storytelling to some degree, whether that be studying them or telling them myself. ■

OBITUARY

Cole Blasier

Stewart Cole Blasier, an accomplished academic, administrator and visionary who served as chief of the Hispanic Division from 1988 to 1993, passed away in Mitchellville, Maryland, on June 6. He was 96.

Blasier grew up in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and attended the University of Illinois, where he met his wife, Martha “Marty” Hiett. He served as a Navy supply officer in the Pacific during World War II. He later pursued his interest in foreign relations by studying for his Ph.D. at Columbia University and then joining the U.S. Foreign Service, which took Marty and him to Cold War posts in Eastern Europe and to Washington, D.C.

Blasier’s fluency in Russian, German, Serbian, Spanish and French, along with a smattering of Polish, served him well as a Foreign Service officer and later as a professor at Colgate University, the University of Cali, Colombia, and the University of Pittsburgh, where he established the Center of Latin American Studies. Aca-

demia allowed him to travel, teach, research and publish his findings. Blasier’s books include [“The Hovering Giant: U.S. Responses to Revolutionary Change in Latin America”](#) and [“Giant’s Rival: The USSR and Latin America.”](#)

Blasier’s first contact with the Hispanic Division came in 1966 when the division’s director, Howard F. Cline, invited Blasier and Kalman Silvert of New York University to establish the multidisciplinary Latin American Studies Association (LASA), with its headquarters at the University of Pittsburgh. Blasier served as executive director of LASA at the University of Pittsburgh and, today, LASA is a thriving international organization with more than 6,000 members.

Blasier joined the Library in 1988 as the institution was embarking on automation efforts. Before widespread public use of the internet, Blasier had the foresight to secure grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the MAPFRE Foundation to digitize the [Handbook of Latin American Studies \(HLAS\)](#). HLAS is a major

annotated research tool prepared by the Hispanic Division since 1939 with the assistance of more than 130 contributing editors. Today, HLAS annotations are searchable and freely available via a Library database, [HLAS Web](#). During Blasier’s time, reading room staff also began developing one of the Library’s most visited online offerings, [“The War of 1898: The Spanish-American War.”](#)

Blasier strengthened the Hispanic Division’s reference services and acquisitions by hiring the Library’s first Luso-Brazilian specialist and first specialist in Mexican culture. He increased outreach to international researchers, inviting scholars from the USSR and visiting fellows from Argentina, Brazil and Chile, among others, to visit the Library.

Blasier left a lasting impression on the Hispanic Reading Room and helped propel the development of Latin American studies by emphasizing the value of scholarly research, outreach and collaboration within the U.S. and abroad. ■

NEWS

Library, Harvard Collaborate on Islamic Law Collections

The Library of Congress and Harvard Law School have initiated [an unprecedented, multifaceted joint collaboration](#) to identify, select and assess the copyright status of materials focusing on national legal gazettes.

The effort, initially set for three years, will coordinate access to, knowledge-sharing of and legal analysis of the Library’s collections related to Islamic law, including national legal gazettes, manuscripts and other materials. It also will improve a reader or researcher’s ability to search those sources, using new data science tools and faceted searches tailored to Islamic collections. The objective is to expand scholarly analysis of and public access to relevant legal materials.

“We are delighted that we will be collaborating with Harvard on expanding access to our foreign legal gazette collection through a joint copyright clearance mechanism,” Law Librarian Aslihan Bulut said. “This is one of a few areas of collaboration that we are further exploring with the objective to expand scholarly analysis and greater public access to legal materials as part of our greater mission.”

Both the Library and the Program in Islamic Law (PIL) at Harvard Law School are conducting a copyright evaluation of the legal gazettes and sharing the results. The gazettes play a vital role in legal practice and in scholarship because they are the primary sources for law in foreign jurisdic-

tions and are often the only place where a law is published in that jurisdiction. This joint effort will greatly expand access to Library gazette collections, which have been acquired since the mid-19th century for about 300 national and subnational jurisdictions.

The Library will digitize the selected materials and make them publicly available on its websites, following copyright clearance. PIL may repost content on its affiliated websites and digital platforms – expanding access to the Harvard community and the world. Instead of searching for laws in each country on separate websites, scholars will be able to access these gazettes in one place.

CCHC, CONTINUED FROM 1

documented, learned from and possibly even replicated for much wider use in the future.”

The scalability of cloud hosting and computing environments permits increasingly large segments of data to be transformed and interpreted in resource-efficient ways, allowing them to be more manageably deconstructed and repackaged. Such an environment can make larger datasets more accessible and support the scale of data needed for computational processes.

The CCHC initiative is exploring these possibilities through its researchers. Lincoln Mullen, a digital historian, is investigating how scripture is used in American text by building a database of biblical quotations from across the Library’s digitized collections.

Digital humanities professor Lauren Tilton is using artificial intelligence to analyze a quarter-million historical images from the Library’s collections and to examine how algorithms understand photos from different time periods.

And Andromeda Yelton, a librarian and software engineer, is applying neural network technology to place similar types of documents into clustered visualizations to encourage browsing and exploration of the Library’s digital materials.

An important part of LC Labs’ process is to observe these researchers as they explore the Library’s resources and work with our staff. While they’re independently responsible for the mechanics of their data acquisition and analysis, the researchers are collaborating with specialists in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and across the Library.

“Already, the researchers have had highly productive consultations with our historians and reference librarians to help focus research questions and gather critical context about the provenance and structure of collections data,” Nicki Saylor, chief of LC Labs, said. “The

success of this effort depends on help from staff across Library divisions to surface insights about the processes and workflows necessary to do similar computational research in the future.”

In fact, information sharing is a key priority in the CCHC effort.

“By documenting and analyzing the roadblocks our researchers face and the questions they ask, we’ll be able to share a detailed look at how cloud-based research on this scale comes together and what steps we need to take as an institution to help facilitate it in a sustainable way,” Olivia Dorsey, an innovation specialist, said.

To support the researchers’ work, LC Labs staff are using the Agile approach that has now become a hallmark of OCIO’s technology development programs. Through a focus on smaller tasks that build up incrementally to larger goals, the CCHC team will investigate, step by step, how the Library might use its cloud infrastructure to support this type of research. The team will bring in Library expertise where and when it’s needed, avoiding overextending staff and resources.

Mullen, Tilton and Yelton all have expressed a desire to use their CCHC work to inspire other innovations in digital humanities and computational research in cultural heritage, and the CCHC initiative itself won’t end with their collaborations at the Library.

LC Labs staff are already in the process of establishing interdisciplinary working groups within the Library and posting documentation in the [CCHC Confluence space](#).

When the researchers’ experiments conclude, the team will provide a GitHub repository to house their code and data outputs.

Thanks to a \$1 million [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant](#) that funds CCHC, LC Labs staff will continue to explore related work that can creatively support the Library’s digital strategy in an ongoing effort to expand who the Library serves and how its many treasures are made available to all Americans.

Although the team is in the early stages of understanding the processes and methods through which this technology can be implemented successfully across the Library, there’s no doubt that it holds the potential to transform many aspects of librarianship and user research.

As Goldfarb put it, “CCHC centers on exploring the Library’s collections at scale. But scale is about more than just volume; it’s about visibility. If our collections are bundled and presented in particular ways now, what stories will we be able to tell when we look at them from entirely different angles?” ■

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